

# Legal officials provide political activity guidance

**SHEPPARD AFB, Texas (AETCNS)**—The upcoming presidential election. The war on terrorism. The 9/11 Commission.

There are a number of issues out there and an even greater number of opinions.

It is important to remember military members and DOD civilian employees are subject to limits on their political activities, according to officials at the Sheppard Law Center.

Military members can find the rules for political participation in DOD Directive 1344.10, *Political Activities by Members of the Armed Forces on Active Duty*, and Air Force Instruction 51-902, *Political Activities by Members of the Air Force*.

Civilian employees are governed by Section 6-200 of the Joint Ethics Regulation.

For military members, failure to comply with these requirements may be chargeable under Article 92, UCMJ, failure to obey a lawful order or regulation.

The following is a list of permissible and prohibited political actions.

## Active duty military members may:

- ★ Register and vote
- ★ Express an opinion on political candidates and issues, but not as a representative of the armed forces.
- ★ Contribute money to a political organization, including parties and committees to elect specific candidates.

★ Attend political meetings or rallies as a spectator when not in uniform.

★ Join a political club and attend its meetings when not in uniform.

★ Serve as an election official, if such service is not as a representative of a partisan political party, does not interfere with military duties, is performed while out of uniform, and has the prior approval of the major command commander or equivalent authority.

★ Display a political sticker on the member's private vehicle, or wear a political button when not in uniform and not on duty.

★ Sign a petition for specific legislative action or a petition to place a candidate's name on an official election ballot if the signing does not obligate the member to engage in partisan political activity and is done as a private citizen.

★ Write a personal letter, not for publication, expressing preference for a specific political candidate or cause.

## Active duty military members may not:

- ★ Be a candidate for or hold civil office except as authorized by DoD Directive 1344.10.
- ★ Allow or cause to be published partisan political articles signed or authorized by the member for soliciting votes for or against a partisan political party or candidate.
- ★ Speak before a partisan political gathering of any kind for promoting a partisan political party or candidate.

★ Participate in any radio, television or other program or group discussion as an advocate of a partisan political party or candidate.

★ Solicit or otherwise engage in fund-raising activities in federal offices or facilities, including military installations, for a partisan political cause or candidate.

★ Make campaign contributions directly to a partisan political candidate.

★ Sell tickets for or otherwise actively promote political dinners and other such fund-raising events.

★ March or ride in a partisan political parade.

★ Serve in any official capacity or be listed as a sponsor of a partisan political club.

★ Perform clerical or other duties for a partisan political committee during a campaign or on election day.

★ Engage in the public or organized recruitment of others to become partisan candidates for nomination or election to a civil office.

★ Display a large political sign, banner or poster on the top or side of a member's private vehicle.

## DOD civilian employees may:

- ★ Do all of the political activities active duty military members may do.
- ★ Be candidates for public office in nonpartisan elections.
- ★ Assist in voter registration drives.
- ★ Express opinions about candidates and issues, to include making speeches.

★ Hold office in political clubs or parties.

★ Distribute campaign literature in partisan elections.

★ Be active at political rallies and meetings.

★ Campaign for or against candidates in partisan elections, referendum questions, constitutional amendments or municipal ordinances.

## DOD civilian employees may not:

★ Use official authority or influence for the purpose of interfering with or affecting the result of an election.

★ Be candidates in partisan elections.

★ Wear political buttons on duty.

★ Solicit political contributions from the general public, subordinates or members of other federal labor or employee organizations.

★ Engage in political activity while on duty, in any federal workplace, wearing an official uniform or displaying official insignia, or using a government or government-leased vehicle.

★ Knowingly solicit or discourage the political activity of any person who has any business with DOD.

★ Contribute to the political campaign of another federal employee who is in the employee's chain of command or supervision.

The most important thing to remember is to check the rules before engaging in a political activity. Also, when in doubt, seek further advice from a unit voting representative or the legal office.

# Space, Missile Systems Center launches again

Space and Missile Systems Center, Detachment 12 Rocket Systems Launch Program and the Missile Defense Agency has conducted the first flight test of its new Long Range Air Launch Target the agency announced.

Capt. Rick Sutter, Long Range Air Launch Target program manager, directed the target extraction and launch sequence from the flight deck of a C-17 Globemaster III.

The Long Range Air Launch Target is based on two Minuteman II second stages taken from deactivated assets. During the May 3 test, the missile was airdropped out the back of a C-17, from the 62nd Airlift Wing, McChord AFB, Wash. that was flying west of Hawaii.

After being released from its parachute system, the missile boosted a simulated re-entry vehicle over the Pacific Ocean. The Space and Missile Systems Center, Detachment 12 and Northrop-Grumman personnel man-

ned the launch consoles and provided mission execution support at the Barking Sands Pacific Missile Range Facility Range Operations Center on the island of Kauai.

The air-launched missile, which is to emulate a ground-launched, long-range, "theater" ballistic missile, is designed to provide Missile Defense Agency with the kind of geographical flexibility not available with targets launched from fixed ground sites.

Long Range Air Launch Target eventually could be tested against such systems as the Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense system, the Patriot system and the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense system.

The Air Force Space and Missile System Center, Detachment 12 Rocket System Launch Program and L3/Coleman Aerospace Corp. are developing Long Range Air Launch Target for the Missile Defense Agency's Targets and Countermeasures Directorate.



Courtesy photo

The Long Range Air Launch Target is airdropped out the back of a C-17, from the 62nd Airlift Wing, McChord AFB, Wash. that was flying west of Hawaii. The black spot on the photo is covering sensitive material.

## Advance Space A lodging gets policy change

Reservations up to 30 days in advance are possible under a new change in the Air Force Space A Lodging policy.

Art Myers, Director of Air Force Services, announced the change recently while addressing members of the Air Force Retiree Council during the annual meeting at Randolph AFB, Texas. He explained that the policy change, long backed by the Council, is effective immediately.

Lodging managers at each base may accept and confirm reservations for Priority 2 (Space Available) up to 30 days in advance of the arrival date, for up to three-night accommodations, space permitting based on actual and projected occupancy.

When projected occupancy is 86 percent or greater, managers may make reservations up to three days in advance; when 85 percent or less, up to seven days in advance; when 80 percent or less, up to two weeks in advance; when 65 percent or less, up to 30 days in advance.

Local managers have the option to extend these win-

dows if the opportunity exists based on seasonal occupancy.

Mr. Myers told the Council members, and explained in a policy letter sent to the services directors of all major commands, that Priority 1 customers will not "bump" Priority 2 customers with confirmed reservations, nor will they bump them once they are assigned quarters for a specific period of time. An exception to this would be in times of contingency, emergency or when the installation commander determines higher priority exists.

Members of the retiree community should note that installation commanders may establish a policy limiting the number of days Space "A" guests may stay in on-base lodging to no more than 30 days a year.

This changes the current policy of only accepting Space "A" reservations 24 hours in advance which became effective in December 1995. Prior to then, it was necessary for individuals hoping for Space A lodging to show at the lodging office at 6 p.m. on the day accommodations were desired and then hope for the best.

**Uniformed  
military  
have  
priority  
8-9 a.m.**



**Kirtland MVD  
846-8390**